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FREEBRIDGE LYNN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT

of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

1952

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CONTENTS

						P	AGE
Introduction	••••						3
VITAL STATISTICS	s, Birth	is, Dea	тнs, I	NFANTILI	E Mor	TALITY	4
CLASSIFICATION (OF THE	Cause	s of I	DEATHS	••••		6
Infectious Dise	ASES						7
VACCINATION					••••		9
Immunisation			••••	••••			9
WATER SUPPLIES	3	••••			••••	••••	10
SENIOR SANITAR	y Inspi	ector's	REPO	RT			15
Sanitary Circu	MSTANC	ES OF	тне D	ISTRICT			16
Housing		••••				•••	18
Inspection and	SUPER	VISION	of Fo	OD		• • • •	21
Prevention of	Damag	е ву Г	ESTS	••••		•••	22
Factories						4	23

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

J. HAMILTON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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W. R. WATKINS, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector: B. W. TAYLOR, A.R.San.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector: W. MARTIN

Housing Officer: R. PECK

Water Superintendent: C. OSBORNE

THE ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF FREEBRIDGE LYNN

For the Year 1952

To The Chairman and Councillors of
The Rural District of Freebridge Lynn.

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, My Lady, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the District during the year 1952.

Measles, in epidemic form, was the outstanding notifiable disease.

Influenza was common in the winter months, but was of less severity than in 1951.

In November, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, because of what still seemed to be the distant prospect of a Regional Scheme, agreed to consider a proposal for an interim water supply scheme, for the Central Area, using the Sow's Head Spring, Grimston; a source of ample water of good quality.

A pipeborne water supply from the King's Lynn Corporation Main was given to the Church Close Housing Estate, Grimston, but apart from this, a fractional improvement, the very unsatisfactory water situation was bettered in no way.

I am grateful for the constant courtesy and kindness of the Chairman and Members of the Council, and the ready co-operation of the hard-working Public Health Staff.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,
J. HAMILTON,
Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

Estimated Mid-Year Home Population (Registrar-General): 10,920

Births:	Males	Females	Total
Livebirths: Legitimate Illegitimate	91 4	97 3	188 7
	95	100	195
Stillbirths:		generales se viet-fan de didd de ve-reg	
Legitimate Illegitimate	1 — 1	1 — 1	2 — 2
Deaths:			
Deaths: All ages Deaths: Infants under 1 year of ag	88 re:	58	146
Legitimate Illegitimate	6	2 1	8 1
	6	3	9
Deaths: Infants under 4 weeks of age Legitimate Illegitimate	e: 4 —	2 1	6
	4	3	7
Deaths: Tuberculosis	_	1	1
Maternal Mortality			
RATES PER 1,000 PO	PULAT	ION	
Births Births (England and Wales) Stillbirths Stillbirths (England and Wales) Deaths	 ivebirths		15.3 0.18 0.35 10.82 11.3 46.1

Deaths, Tuberculosis				 	 0.09
Deaths, Tuberculosis	(Engla	and and	Wales)	 	 0.24
Maternal Mortality	,		,		 Nil

There were 5 more births than last year, and 20 more than in 1950. Births exceeded deaths by 49. Illegitimate births were 10 less than in 1951 (17) and Stillbirths were 3 fewer (5). Infant deaths under 1 year of age were more than the usual number, this past few years; 9, compared with 3, 2, 4 in 1951, 1950 and 1948 respectively. The Infantile Mortality Rate of 15.78 in 1951 was trebled to 46.1 in 1952. The causes of these infant deaths, 7 of which took place within the first 4 weeks of life, were:—

1.	Prematurity	 2
2.	Congenital Malformations	 2
3.	Asphyxia Neonatorum	 2
	Foetal Anoxia	 1

In these cases, immaturity, or defect, or failure of vital processes were incompatible with existence; or prejudicial to survival.

5. Bronchopneumonia 1
6. Scalding 1

Both of these deaths might have been avoidable.

Almost three-quarters of the total deaths were those of people 65 years, and over that age, and diseases of the Heart and Circulation were responsible for most of them.

There were 29 deaths between the ages of 45 and 65 years. Diseases of the Heart and Circulation (14), Malignant Growths (6) and diseases of the Lungs (4) accounted for most of them.

4 deaths occurred between 1 year and 45 years: 1 each from Accident, Cancer, Heart disease and Kidney disease.

17 deaths were due to Diseases of the Respiratory System (Pneumonia, Bronchitis, etc,), and all, with the exception of an infant, were elderly persons.

Cancer and other Malignant growths were the causes of 18 deaths. 12 of these were people on in years.

There was I death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis; that of a middle-aged person.

Maternal Mortality has again been NIL, like it has been for some years past; a testimonial to good maternal constitution, and the midwifery services.

60 deaths occurred in Hospitals and Institutions.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE CAUSES OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO DISEASES

	Causes of Deaths.			Males	Females	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory				1	1
	Tuberculosis, other forms					-
	Syphilitic disease					
4.	Diphtheria	• • • •		_		
5.	Whooping Cough	• • • •				
	Meningococcal Infections					
	Acute Poliomyelitis					
	Measles					
	Other Infective and Parasitic		S	ensemble.		
	Malignant Neoplasm: Stomac			1	2	3
	Malignant Neoplasm: Lung,		us	1		1
	Maglignant Neoplasm: Breast					
	Malignant Neoplasm: Uterus					
14.	Other Malignant and Lymp		eo-	•		
	plasms	• • • •		10	4	14
	Leukaemia: aleukaemia		• • • •			
16.	Diabetes					
	Vascular Lesions of Nervous	System		6	12	18
	,	• • • •		16	6	22
	Hypertension with Heart Dise	ease	• • • •	1	l	2
	Other Heart Disease			16	10	26
	Other Circulatory Disease			3	4	7
	Influenza			l		1
	Pneumonia			6	1	7
	Bronchitis			4	2	6
	Other diseases of Respiratory	•	l	I	2	3
	Ulcer of Stomach and Duode					
	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrh					
	Nephritis and Nephrosis			2		2 4
	Hyperplasia of Prostrate		• • • •	4		4
	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abort					
	0			2		2
	Other defined and ill-define	d disea	ises	11	12	23
	Motor Vehicle accidents				l	l
	All other accidents			2		2
35.	Suicide					
36.	Homicide		••••			

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN 1952

Infectious Disease.	Under 1	15	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 & over	Total
Measles	17	108	154	6	11			296
Whooping Cough	3	23	18					44
Scarlet Fever		5	16		2		—	23
Pneumonia		1				2	1	4
Chicken Pox		8	33	1	2			44
Infective Hepatitis				1	1		1	3
Puerperal Pyrexia				1				1
Food Poisoning				1	2	- 3	3	9
Non-Pulmonary			i					
Tuberculosis		1	1		1	—		3
Pulmonary								
Tuberculosis		1		3	5	1		10
Total	20	147	222	13	24	6	5	437

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

437 cases of notifiable Infectious Diseases were reported during the year, an increase of 331 over 1951.

This, in the main, was due to an epidemic of Measles, that started in the beginning of January, and spread throughout the district, till its termination in August.

Measles. The epidemic was the usual biennial occurrence; there being 296 cases against 22 in 1951, and 211 in 1950. The most affected areas were Great Massingham, with Little Massingham (110 cases), Grimston, with Pott Row and Roydon (50), Harpley (27) and West Winch (22).

l case was admitted to King's Lynn Isolation Hospital. There was no mortality.

The following schools were, for varying periods, closed for children of 7 years and under, who had not had Measles, in an effort to check the dimensions of the outbreak:—

Ashwicken
Castleacre
Castle Rising
Flitcham
Great Massingham
Grimston Church Hill

Grimston Pott Row Hillington Middleton North Wootton West Newton West Winch Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever. There was a moderate increase in the numbers of Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever cases, 44 and 23 cases, compared with 30 and 5 in the previous year. The majority of Whooping Cough notifications were in the Spring and early Summer. More than half the Scarlet Fever occurred in July.

2 cases of Scarlet Fever and 1 of Whooping Cough were removed to King's Lynn Isolation Hospital. There was no Mortality.

Chicken Pox. Chicken Pox ceased to be notifiable from 30th April.

Food Poisoning. There was a small outbreak of Food Poisoning at Harpley in April. On 11th April, 9 people of 6 different households had an abrupt onset of Vomiting, Colic, Diarrhoea and Faintness. All had eaten Brawn from the same source, bought and kept overnight on the 10th April (a very close night) and consumed on 11th April, the day of illness.

Investigations and Laboratory Reports indicated that the Brawn had been accidentally contaminated during its making by Staphylococci, from an open cut on a finger.

Tuberculosis. 10 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (8 Males and 2 Females) were notified, the largest number of notifications since 1946 (11).

- (a) I case was a "Transfer" from another area.
- (b) 1 case was a Re-Registration (original notification 1947)
- (c) I case had been in the District only 6 months and from its nature might well have been established at the previous place of residence.
- (d) 3 cases were discovered by the Mass Radiography Unit during its visit to King's Lynn in March and April.

7,033 persons attended this Unit, and the percentage of acute infections among them was 0.23 per cent.

The Unit had a popular appeal. If it had not been there, these 3 cases might not have been discovered, to be notified in 1952.

4 cases were "Contacts" with present or previous family infection. One was a fifteen months old infant.

In all cases, except 1, Housing conditions were considered to be satisfactory.

There were 3 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, all Glandular infections. Enquiries were made about the milk supplies of each case, and all were satisfactory.

Miscellaneous. Influenza is not a notifiable disease, so the size of its outbreak cannot be measured by notifications. It was prevalent in the first quarter of the year, but was certainly milder in type, or less severe in degree, and probably less extensive than in 1951. In that year there were 11 deaths attributed to Influenza compared with 1 in 1952, and 3 cases of "Influenza Pneumonia" notified, against 1 in the present year.

An alarming condition, whose main feature was the abrupt onset of repeated Vomiting, sometimes accompanied by Colic and Diarrhoea, made its appearance during the Winter months, mainly among children. As a rule, the disturbance was over in a couple of days. The intervals between household cases appeared to be from 3 — 4 days to a week.

The illness had much in common with a recognised epidemic complaint known as "Epidemic Nausea and Vomiting," a condition thought to be due to a Virus that has not yet been identified.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Vaccination.

104 Vaccinations were reported, 83 of which were Primary Vaccinations under the age of 5 years.

This was an improvement on the Vaccination Rates of previous years: 11, 31, 70 and 65 in 1948, 1949, 1950 and 1951, respectively.

Immunisation.

Primary Immunisation:

Under 5 years Over 5 years	••••		125 48	(125) (21)
Tot	al	••••	173	(146)
Reinforcing Injecti		••••		(164)
$(1951 \ fig$	gures in	n parent	heses)	

There was a slight improvement in the Primary Immunisation figures, and an appreciable one in those of Reinforcing Inoculations. The position can be regarded as satisfactory. The "slump" that took place from 1948 to 1950 when Primary Immunisation fell from 126 to 84, had a check in 1951 (125), and was held at that figure in 1952.

Cinema and Press publicity helps to stimulate interest; and special use was made of these mediums for propaganda in the first week of the year.

Particular thanks are due to Messrs. Sheldrake, and Swain, Hunstanton; Mobile Cinema proprietors, for their help, by showing films in villages, on their cinema circuits.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

Brucella Abortus organisms were found in the milk of 6 herds. As a practice, the milk from 2 herds was always Pasteurised. Action was taken under Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, to have the milk of the other 4 herds Pasteurised, before sale for human consumption.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT, 1950.

Bovine Anthrax was reported on 3 occasions; Anthrax in a pig on another.

The cattle herds concerned were not sources of supply of milk for sale for human consumption.

Foot and Mouth Disease was reported once; and again milk was not retailed for consumption.

The Local Medical Practitioners were informed about these occurrences, and appropriate actions were taken under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1950.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No cases were dealt with under the National Assistance Act, 1948, or the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.

MISCELLANEOUS

An Infant Welfare Centre was started at Pentney Village Hall on 6th February by the County Council. Sessions are held once a month.

WATER SUPPLIES

Pipe-borne water is supplied from:—

(a) Sandringham Waterworks:

To the Sandringham Parish.

(b) Harpley Dams (Bore) Waterworks:

To the Parishes of Harpley, Great Massingham and Little Massingham.

(c) King's Lynn Corporation Waterworks (Gayton):

To the Parishes of North and South Wootton and Ashwicken, and to the Church Close Council Housing Scheme at Grimston.

All these supplies are chlorinated.

(d) Housing Estates Boreholes:

To the Council's Housing Estates at Gayton, East Winch, Middleton, Pentney, Westacre and West Winch.

(e) Private Estate Supplies:

To the Villages of Castle Rising and Hillington (including Council Houses). These supplies are pumped direct from the Babingley River.

Excepting one occasion, when the water taken from a tap at Great Massingham (probable number of coliform organisms 900 per 100 mls.), from the Harpley supply was unsatisfactory, the water supplies of (a), (b) and (c) have been

- (a) Satisfactory in quantity; and
- (b) Satisfactory in quality.

Chlorination was increased at the Harpley Dam Waterworks, and the subsequent result was highly satisfactory.

The river water supplies, (e), as would be expected, fluctuated between satisfactory and indifferent in quality.

With a prospect of a Regional Scheme, a demand for purification plants is unjustified.

Except in the case of Church Close, Grimston, the water supplies from the Housing Estates' Boreholes have been satisfactory in quantity. The Church Close Borehole "failed" in March, and water had to be carted to the houses for a considerable time, till the Estate was linked up with the King's Lynn Corporation Main.

The quality of the water from the Estate Boreholes was generally satisfactory. In a few instances, individual samples gave suspicious results, but subsequent samples from the same source were Highly Satisfactory, except in 1 case. Here, samples were unsatisfactory on 2 occasions, and the reason for these adverse results had not been determined by the end of the year.

Most of the water supplies of the District still come from shallow wells:—

(a) Always to be regarded as unsatisfactory in quality.

(b) Insufficient in quantity, to the point of failing in supply altogether, in dry seasons.

Analyses:

64 samples of water used for drinking purposes were analysed during the year:—

1.	Major supplies, e.g., Sandring	ham, Ha	rpley I	Dams	7
2.	Housing Estate Borehole suppl	lies			23
	Private Estate supplies				6
	Wells, etc	• • • •			28
	,				
		_	Γotal		64

Sandringham Waterworks

A. Sample of water taken on 7th February, 1952.

Physical Characters Noticeable deposits, otherwise good. Reaction pH 7.2

				Paris	per 100,000
Chloride		• • • •			2.2
Ammonia (Free and	I Saline)				absent
Ammonia (Albumir	noid)				0.0006
Oxygen absorbed in	3 hours	s at 379	• C.	• • • •	0.0264
Nitrates	• • • •				absent
Nitrites					absent
Poisonous Metals	• • • •			• • • •	absent
Total Hardness					24.5

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION:

Coliform organisms — absent in 100 mls.

Number of micro-organisms per ml. developing on Agar at 37° C. — Nil.

Number of micro-organisms per ml. developing on Agar at 21° C. — Nil.

MICROSCOPICAL EXAMINATION OF DEPOSIT:
Mineral Matter and Organic Debris.

INFERENCE: Safe for drinking purposes.

D	Sample	of water	talzen	99th	August	1059
B.	Sample	or water	taken	40 tH	August,	1902.

Physical Characters Good. Reaction pH 7.3

Parts per 100,000
Chloride 3.1

Ammonia (Free a	nd Saline)		 absent
Ammonia (Album	inoid)	 	 absent
Oxygen absorbed	/		 0.0231
Nitratos			 0.55
NI:			 absent
Poisonous Metals			absent
Total Hardness			25.1

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION:

Coliform organisms absent in 100 mls.

Number of micro-organisms per ml. developing on Agar at 37° — Nil.

Number of micro-organisms per ml. developing on Agar at 21° C. — Nil.

MICROSCOPICAL EXAMINATION OF DEPOSIT:

None.

Inference: Safe for drinking purposes.

Bacteriological Analyses Only.

A. HARPLEY DAMS:

- 1. Sample from Standpipe, Great Massingham, taken on 28th April, 1952: Probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 mls 0.
 - "This sample is highly satisfactory."
- 2. Sample taken from Kitchen Tap, Great Massingham, 6th August, 1952: Probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 mls. 0
 - "This sample is highly satisfactory."
- 3. Sample taken from Kitchen Tap, Great Massingham, on 20th October, 1952:

Probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 ml. — 900 Probable number of faecal coli per 100 ml. — 0

This sample has already been referred to.

- 4. Sample taken from Kitchen Tap, Great Massingham, 15th December, 1952: Probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 ml. 0
 - "This sample is highly satisfactory."

B. Sandringham Waterworks.

Sample of water taken from Bib Tap in Chlorination chamber of pumping station at Appleton on 26th November, 1952:

Probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 ml. — 0

"This sample is highly satisfactory."

14 of the water samples from 21 wells were reported to be contaminated, most heavily so; and 8 contained faecal organisms. As stated before, with the District looking forward to the advent of the Regional Water Scheme, all that can be done is to advise that such water be boiled and the wells be cleaned out.

Plumbo-Solvency.

The water supplies are not Plumbo-Solvent.

Supplies to Dwelling Houses, Etc.

The numbers of dwelling houses, and the number of the population supplied from Public (and other) Mains are shown in the following Table:—

PIPE-BORNE WATER SUPPLIES.

			Supplied (to Properties	Supplied by Public Standpipes		
Parish.			No. of Houses	Approx. $Population$	No. of Houses	Approx. Population	
Bawsey		 	16	63			
Castleacre		 	46	200			
Castle Rising		 	25*	75*	46*	138*	
Congham		 					
Flitcham		 	12*	48*	9 *	36*	
Gayton		 	44	170			
Grimston		 	46	184			
Harpley		 	85	340			
Hillington		 	40*	120*	22*	65*	
Leziate		 	72	248	20	60	
Great Massingha	\mathbf{m}	 	91	346	135	364	
Little Massingha	ım	 	47	185			
Middleton		 	73	284			
Pentney		 	32	122			
Roydon							
North Runcton		 100		-			
Sandringham		 	150	450			
East Walton		 					
Westacre		 	8	32			
East Winch	• • • •	 	30	114			
West Winch		 	84	320			
North Wootton		 	65	237	50	150	
South Wootton		 	205	811			
То	tals	 	1171	4349	282	813	

^{*} Private supplies provided by the Castle Rising, Sandringham and Hillington Estates respectively.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

SURVEYOR AND SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR For the Year ending 1952.

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, My Lady, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Report for the year ended 31st December, 1952.

1. INSPECTIONS.

The number of inspections made in conjunction with the various branches of Public Health work during the year are as follows:—

	$\mathcal{N}o.$ of	
Nature of Inspections.	Visits.	of Visits.
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT:		
Sanitary Appliances	7	
Drainage, including Ditches	106	
Cesspools, alterations, etc	24	
Keeping of Animals	8	
Dirty or Verminous premises	21	
Water supplies	127	
Water samples	73	
Sewerage	57	
Refuse Tips	41	
•		46 4
FOOD:		
Unsound Food	5	
Food premises for Byelaws, etc.,		
(including occasional duties at		
Public Abattoirs)	136	
Number of Ice Cream samples	19	
Slaughter Houses or Knackers' Yards	2	
		162
Milk and Dairies:		
Dairies inspections	1	
Methods of distribution	3	
Samples	4	
•		8
Petroleum Acts:		
Number of applications, site inspections	3	
		3

				Total No.
Nature of Inspections.			Visits.	of Visits.
Housing:				
For Repairs			86	
For Over-crowding, or P		iving		
Conditions			9	
For improvement grants	S		8	
Building Byelaws			298	
Council Estates			209	
				610
Moveable Dwellings:				
Site Inspections		• • • •	15	
Number of Dwellings In	spect	ed	26	
9	-			41
Infectious Diseases:				
Investigations			21	
Disinfection of Premises			9	
Collection of Clothing			0	
Collection of Specimens		• • • •	4	
Food Poisoning			7	
				41
Pests Act:				
Supervisory Inspections			10	
				10
Factories Acts:				
Factories Visited			14	
				14
				1353

2. **NOTICES.**

(a) **Preliminary.** The following Preliminary Notices were served, in some cases, where personal interview showed no results:—

Housing Act, 1936		 	6
Public Health Act,	1936	 	19

(b) **Statutory.** In two cases only were Statutory Notices required to be served under the Housing Act, 1936, and both were complied with.

3. WATER SUPPLIES.

The maintenance of the Council's water undertakings has been carried out most efficiently by the Council's water department staff under the direction of the Water Superintendent. In addition to the latter, who was appointed to the Councils permanent established staff in April, the Council employs a Plumber

fitter, Pumping attendant and three labourers, one of whom was called up for National Service in November.

This department has been engaged principally in regular maintenance of the Council's fifteen borewells, and thirteen sewage disposal plants.

During the year, however, in addition to carrying out numerous minor repairs at Council properties, we have extended piped service mains at the following Estates: Castleacre, Gayton, Grimston, West Winch, North Wootton and Middleton. A further 3,000 ft. of extra piped mains were also laid at Great Massingham in extending the mains supply to the Lynn Road and Castleacre Road areas. At this village, too, the public standpipes originally numbering twenty-two, were reduced to five.

During the year, twenty-eight private water connections were made, and twenty-four water meters were fixed at business and/or agricultural premises.

During the year, seventy-three water samples were taken throughout the District, the results being as follows:—

FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL OR CHEMICAL EXAMINATION:

Number of Samples proved to be satisfactory	 37
Number of Samples regarded as suspicious	 4
Number of Samples proved to be unsatisfactory	 23
Number of Samples broken in transit	 3

FOR WELL WATER CYANOSIS:

Number of Samples proved safe	 2
Number of Samples proved doubtful	 2
Number of Samples proved unsafe	 2
Total Number of Samples	 73

At Church Close Housing Estate, a serious situation arose due to failure of the Council's Borewell, and from March until October the whole of the water supply to this Estate had to be conveyed to the site by Council vehicles.

A scheme was prepared to supply the villages of Grimston (including Church Close Estate), Gayton, Congham and Roydon in anticipation of the King's Lynn Corporation permitting us to tap their 15-inch pumping main at Well Hall Lane, Gayton. Although approval was received from the Ministry, it was abandoned, as the King's Lynn Borough Council were prepared to supply us with water in bulk to the Church Close Estate only.

With the prospect of the joint Regional Water Scheme as remote as ever, the Council then decided to approach the Ministry to see if they would consider a system of "grouped village schemes,"

which your Surveyor was asked to prepare. A deputation visited the Ministry in July, when it was made clear that they did not favour such schemes, in view of the joint Regional Scheme pending.

In September, approval was ultimately received to proceed with the scheme for supplying the Church Close Estate, which

job was completed by October 17th.

Also in September, a further effort was made by the Council to obtain a piped water supply for the Central Area of the District, based on the Sows Head Springs, Grimston, as the source of supply.

The proposals were placed before a Ministry official at an Inquiry held on the 23rd September. A series of readings at the Sows Head Springs, which had been gauged, proved very satisfactory, whereupon instructions were given to the Consultant Engineers to prepare this scheme.

Thus it will be seen, that the Council has made every endeavour to relieve the acute water shortage, particularly in the

Central Area of our District.

4. HOUSING.

With regard to maintenance and repairs of private properties, a little difficulty was experienced in getting repairs works carried out, although the free limit for repairs, under the Building Licensing Regulations, was raised from £100 to £200. However, it was only found necessary on two occasions to serve Statutory Notices.

The main deterrent in getting repairs executed, is the restrictions embodied in present legislation governing the control of rents. As previously reported, the only practicable solution is a complete review of the Rent Restrictions Acts.

As regards the administration of the Housing Act, 1949, under which Act grants might be obtained to assist property owners, a few enquiries were received, but in no case was an official application made to the Council.

During the year, eight Notices under the Housing Act, 1936, were served, and two Closing Orders were made.

Under the Small Dwellings (Acquisition) Acts, six applications for loans were received, of which four were granted, one refused and one application was withdrawn.

During the year, thirty-six Council Dwellings were completed, as compared with fifty-two in the previous year. In October, a three-year Housing Programme was presented to the Housing Committee, when it was agreed to aim at a target of 150 traditional brick houses, *i.e.*, fifty dwellings per annum for the three ensuing years, together with an additional fifty Unity type houses, making a total of 200 dwellings over the next three years.

5. **NEW BUILDINGS.**

During 1952, 135 plans were approved under the Council's Building Byelaws and/or Town Planning, of which the following ninety-nine were for new dwellings:—

By the Council.			
Parish.		Houses.	Bungalows.
Castleacre	 	 14	6
Gayton	 	 4	8
Grimston	 	 6	
Middleton	 	 12	10
West Winch	 	 6	6
North Wootton	 	 	2
		42	32
By Private Enterprise.			
Bawsey	 • • • •	 1	3
Gayton	 • • • •	 2	1
Grimston	 	 	1
Leziate	 	 5	4
Middleton	 	 	2
North Wootton	 	 	1
South Wootton	 	 1	4
		9	16

Also, during the year, the following fifty new dwellings were completed and occupied, and the remaining thirty-six were in course of erection:—

By the Council.

·····	Con	ipleted.	Being Built.		
Parish.	Houses.	Bungalows.		Bungalows.	
Castleacre	4	2	6	2	
Gayton	4				
Grimston	4		2		
Middleton	4		6		
Pentney		6			
East Winch	4			<u></u>	
West Winch	6		6		
North					
Wootton	ı —	2			
	26	10	20	2	

By	Private Enterpris	e.			
	Bawsey	1	_	2	1
	Gayton			1	1
	Grimston		1		
	Leziate	2	1	1	3
	North				
	Runcton		3		
	West Winch			1	
	North				
	Wootton		2		1
	South				
	Wootton		4	1	2
		3	11	6	8

6. CIVIL BUILDING CONTROL.

The Building Licensing Regulations have remained in force throughout the year. The free limit for repairs to dwellings was, however, raised from £100 to £200, with farm and business premises permitted a ceiling of £500 per annum.

A total of fifty-two applications were dealt with, nearly a hundred per cent. increase on the previous year, whereas the licenced amounts granted totalled more than three times the sum allowed for the previous year.

The licences issued are as follows:—

						N ((
						No. of	
						Licences.	Value.
							f_{i}
New Dwe	llings	— Ten	House	S		10	26,814
New Dwe						20	36,010
Temporar	y Ďw	ellings –	– Two	o Bungalo	OWS	2	630
Improvem						16	13,124
Repairs	• • • •					4	1,376
							£77,954

7. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year a number of extensions to sewers at Council Estates were carried out. An additional man was employed in the Scavenging Staff, in order to cope with the extra work entailed in regular emptying and maintenance of the Council's numerous sewage disposal plants. During the year, eight sewage effluent samples were submitted for analysis.

A preliminary report, dealing with the question of purchasing

another cesspool emptier was considered by the Public Health Committee, when it was decided to go further into this matter at some future date.

8. SCAVENGING.

(a) **Refuse Collection.** A weekly refuse collection at South Wootton, and a fortnightly collection of the remainder of the District, except Sandringham, was carried out during the year.

The Council continued to employ a part-time man at the South Wootton tip, for purposes of tidying and dressing the tip, and no complaints were received regarding this tip. As in the past, during the summer months, all five tips were sprayed with tip dressing, and also received treatment by the rodent operator, who did excellent work in this direction.

- (b) **Pail Emptying.** A weekly collection of night-soil was made in the Parishes of Castleacre, Harpley, Great Massingham and Little Massingham. During the year approximately 32,000 pails were emptied by this service.
- (c) **Cesspools.** During the year, a further increase in the number of cesspools emptied was recorded, which clearly indicates that the need for an additional emptier becomes more pronounced with each succeeding year.

A total of fifty-six Council properties were serviced, and 221 private cesspools were emptied, for which service £328 was collected.

9. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year a total of forty-one visits were made in connection with the control of infectious diseases, and were made up as follows:—

Number of Investigations made	 21
Disinfection of Premises	 9
Collection of Specimens	 4
Food Poisoning Investigations	 7
Total	 41

10. FOOD INSPECTION.

During the year visits were made to butchers, grocers, etc., and varying quantities of foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered, and condemnation certificates issued accordingly.

A total of 162 visits were made in connection with Food Byelaws, etc.

During the year, 19 Ice Cream samples were taken and submitted to the County Laboratories for examination, with the following results:—

Grade.			Number.
1	 		 11
2	 		 4
3	 	• • • •	 2
4			2

11. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

There were two licensed Caravan Sites in the District, and during the year fifteen visits were made to these sites, and twenty-six dwellings were inspected.

12. KNACKERS' YARDS.

There were two Knackers' Yards in the District, and during the year two visits were made to these premises.

13. MILK AND DAIRIES.

The control of Milk Production is now in the hands of the Norfolk County Council, acting on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Licensing of milk bottling establishments and milk retailers, however, continues to be the responsibility of the Council.

There are two licensed milk bottling establishments in the District, and ten milk vendors. During a mild epidemic at Hillington, three milk samples were taken to ascertain whether the cause could be attributed to this source, but all three samples passed. A further sample was taken at Middleton in connection with an infectious disease case, and this also passed the test.

14. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

I am able to report that excellent work has been done with respect to ridding the District of vermin.

This is the first full year in which we have administered the Act, with our own rodent operator, and below is given a detailed summary of the year's work.

		Visits, Surveys
	Treated.	& Inspections.
Free:		_
Council Property	 24	186
Private & Council Houses	 763	4922

CHARGEABLE:

Business	Premises		 6	40
Farms			 39	175
				na nagama mana di lagga da mandan amang maj
		Totals	 832	5323

15. FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Sections 1 — 7 inclusive where mechanical power is not used, and 5 and 7 where there is power, are administered by the Council and a Register in accordance with the Act has to be kept. As regards this Council, the year's records are as follows:—

Total Number of Factories and/or Workshops	 35
Total number of Factories with Power	 25
Total number of Factories without Power	 10
Total number of Visits made	 14

16. CONCLUSION.

Members will observe from the number of visits made for various purposes, that the year has been one of considerable activity.

There has been more work in connection with Civil Building Licences, and visits under Building Byelaws, owing to the marked increase in the number of private dwellings being erected.

From the Report, Members will see that every effort has been made by the Council to obtain a water supply for the Central Area of the District, but with the exception of the piped supply to Church Close Estate, Grimston, without much success.

With regard to the Council's Housing Programme, the number of houses actually completed showed a decrease, although at the end of the year a further sixty-six houses were ready for tender.

The outside work has proceeded smoothly and efficiently, due in large measure to the fact that the Scavenging, Housing Direct Labour, and Water Departments are staffed with reliable foremen.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Chairman and Members for the courtesy extended to me, the Clerk and Medical Officer for their valuable help and co-operation, and also the Technical Staff for the loyalty and great assistance throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant, W. R. WATKINS,

Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector.

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